International Weather and Crop Summary

September 17 - 23, 2000
International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries
provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Wet weather across much of central Europe hampered summer crop maturation and winter grain planting, while beneficial rains fell in parts of southeastern Europe.

FSU-WESTERN: Cool, wet weather in Ukraine slowed summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, while farther east, mostly dry weather in North Caucasus, Russia favored rapid fieldwork.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Several days of dry weather helped spring grain harvesting in Western Siberia, Russia and Kazakstan.

AUSTRALIA: Warm, dry weather increased moisture demands of immature winter crops, stressing those crops in areas of limited moisture.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Sunny, dry weather benefited rice maturation and early harvesting throughout Indochina.

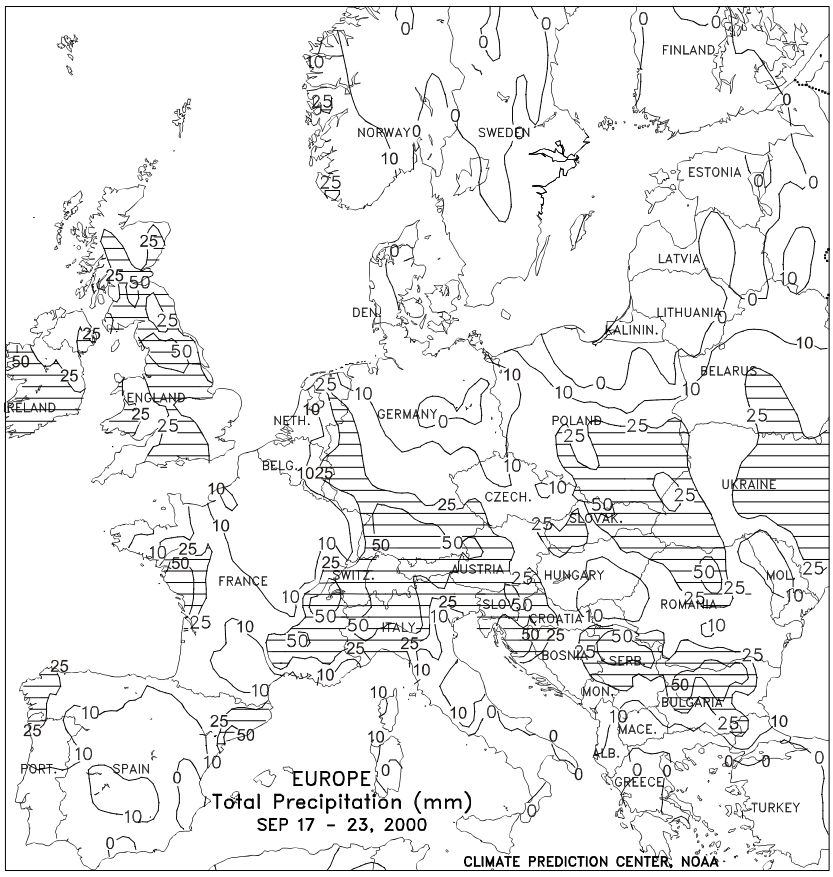
SOUTH ASIA: Monsoon showers intensified over the south and east, but missed parched oilseed areas of central India.

EASTERN ASIA: From the western North China Plain into the Sichuan, rain favored winter wheat planting and germination. Dry weather eased excessive wetness across South Korea.

SOUTH AMERICA: In Argentina, rain is needed in Cordoba and the northwest. In southern Brazil, showers boosted soil moisture for summer crop planting, but slowed wheat harvesting and possibly reduced quality.

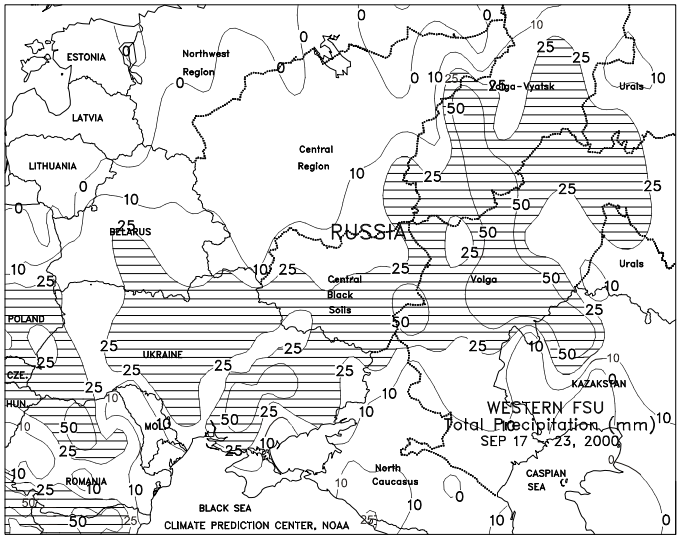
CANADA: Cool, wet weather delayed spring grain and oilseed harvesting.

MEXICO: Tropical Storm Norman brought showers and local flooding to western Mexico, and showers maintained moisture supplies for corn across the main corn belt.



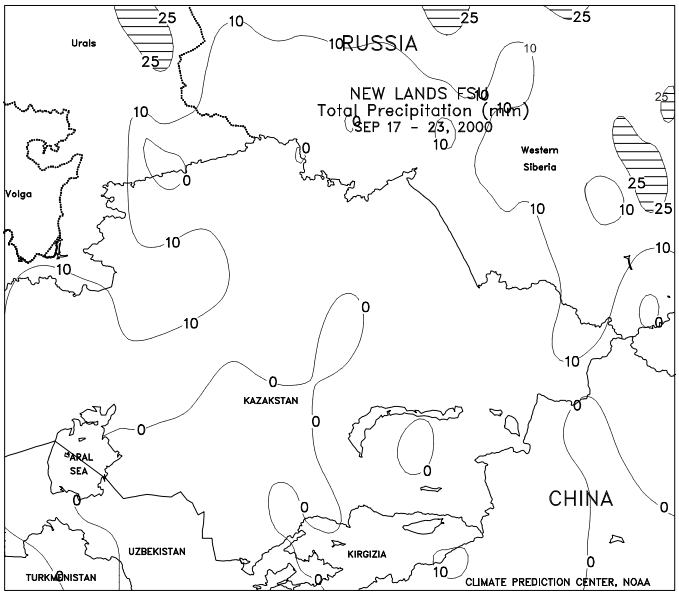
EUROPE

In England, wet weather (18-80 mm) hampered summer crop maturation and winter grain planting, while scattered showers (13-68 mm) in far western and far eastern France caused some delays in sunflower harvesting. Elsewhere in western Europe, mostly dry weather favored summer crop maturation and harvesting across the Benelux countries, central France, Spain, and Portugal. In contrast, moderate to locally heavy rain (25-90 mm) fell in southern Germany and northern Italy, halting corn and sunflower harvesting and reportedly causing localized flooding. Dry weather covered the remainder of central Europe, helping fieldwork in southern Scandinavia, northern Germany, and southern Italy. In southeastern Europe, much-needed rain (12-74 mm) fell across Slovenia, Croatia, much of Serbia, Bulgaria, and extreme southern Romania, boosting topsoil moisture for winter grain planting. Nevertheless, substantial follow-up rains are needed in these areas to significantly improve moisture supplies and eliminate long-term drought. Mostly dry weather maintained severe drought in northern Serbia, Hungary, and the remainder of Romania, delaying winter grain planting, while dry weather in Greece favored cotton in the open-bolls stage of development. Farther north, scattered showers (12-47 mm) in southern Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia hampered summer crop maturation and delayed winter grain planting. Temperatures in northeastern Europe averaged about 2 to 4 degrees C below normal, slowing crop development. Elsewhere in Europe, near-normal temperatures (within 2 degrees C of normal) prevailed.



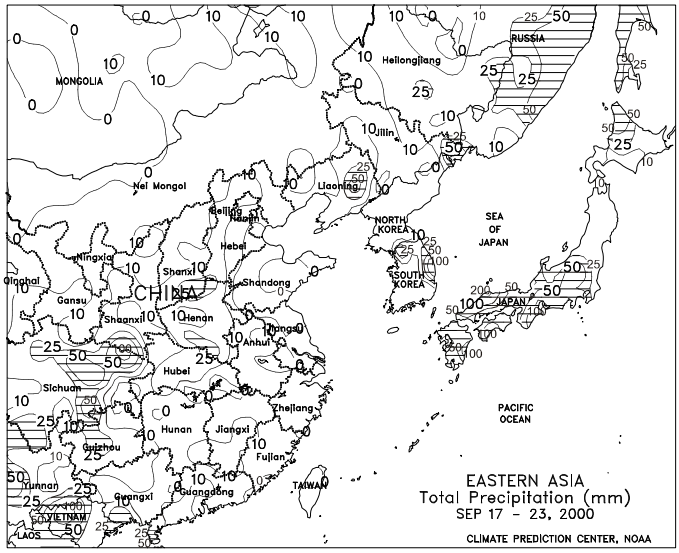
FSU-WESTERN

In Ukraine, unseasonably cool, wet weather hampered fieldwork for corn, sunflower, and sugar beet harvesting and winter wheat planting. Precipitationin Ukraine generally ranged from 17 to 50 mm, with the greatest amounts of rain (more than 50 mm) falling in south-central areas. Although wet weather since the beginning of September has provided adequate to abundant topsoil moisture for winter wheat germination and early plant establishment, it has increased the potential for diseases in maturing summer crops. In northern Russia, soaking rain (25 - 50 mm or more) stretched from the Central Black Soils Region and the middle Volga Valley, northeastward into the Volga Vyatsk, providing abundant soil moisture for newly emerged winter grains. Mostly dry weather prevailed in the Northwest Region and Central Region, helping autumn fieldwork. Unseasonably cool weather (weekly temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C below normal) was observed in northern Russia, slowing early winter grain development. Furthermore, most locations reported extreme minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to 0 degrees C. Elsewhere in Russia, mostly dry weather in North Caucasus and the lower Volga Valley helped corn, sugar beet, and sunflower harvesting and winter wheat planting. Reports from Russia as of September 21 indicated that corn, sugar beets, and sunflowers were about 6, 13, and 7 percent harvested, respectively. Furthermore, winter grains had progressed to about 64 percent planted.



FSU-NEWLANDS

Spring grain harvesting was well underway in Russia and Kazakstan. In Russia, generally dry weather in Western Siberia allowed spring grain harvesting. However, rainy weather (10-35 mm) in the northern Urals and Eastern Siberia hampered harvest activities. Reports from Russia as of September 21 indicated that the grain was about 85 percent harvested. In Kazakstan, mostly dry weather allowed grain harvesting to progress toward completion. Reports as of September 25 indicated that the grain in Kazakstan was about 91 percent harvested. On September 23, the first hard freeze of the autumn (minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to -8 degrees C) extended as far south as central Kazakstan, ending the growing season. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in Kazakstan and Russia. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, mild, dry weather favored boll maturation and harvesting. In many areas, the cotton harvest is likely progressing ahead of schedule, due to favorable weather conditions.

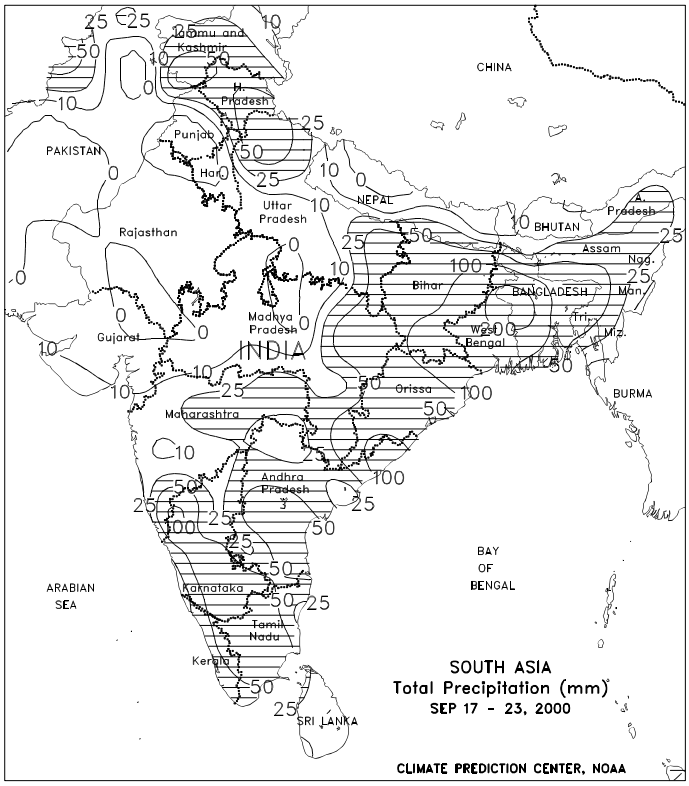


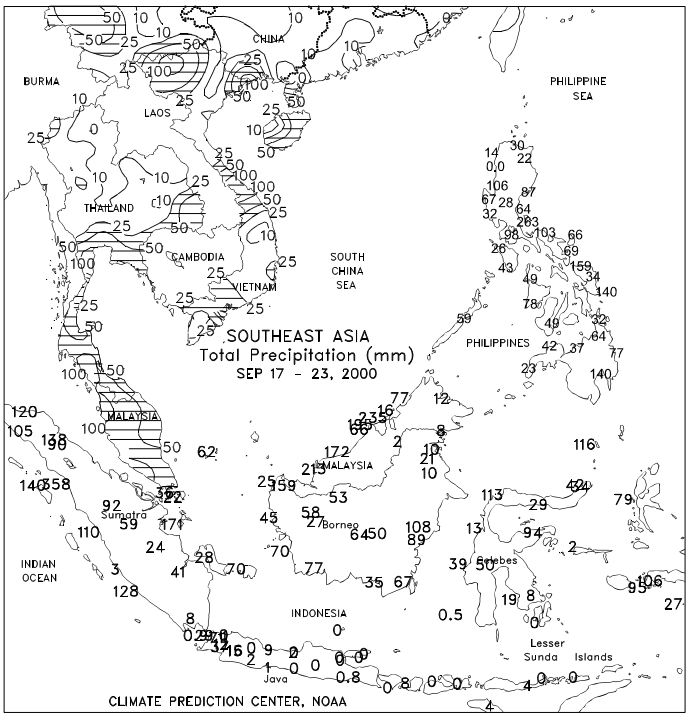
EASTERN ASIA

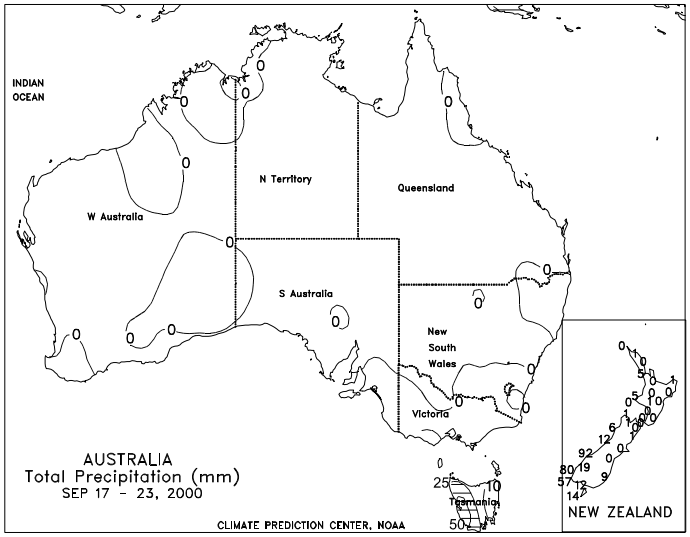
Over most of China, warm weather (temperatures 2-5 degrees C above normal) favored summer crop maturation and early harvesting. In Manchuria, light rain (5-20 mm) aided late-maturing summer crops. Across the western North China Plain and into the Sichuan Basin, light to moderate rain (15-50 mm) increased soil moisture for winter wheat planting and germination. Mostly dry weather extended from Shandong southward into southeastern China, favoring summer crop and rice maturation. Dry weather prevailed through the main crop-producing areas of the Korean peninsula, easing excessive wetness. Moderate showers (40-100 mm) covered southern and central Japan, slowing rice maturation and early harvesting. Drier weather (10-40 mm) prevailed across northern Honshu and Hokkaido. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

SOUTH ASIA

A resurgence of monsoon activity brought widespread, locally heavy rain to southern and eastern India and Bangladesh. In the south, the copious rain (25-50 mm or more) was especially beneficial for immature cotton and oilseeds. Moderate showers (25 mm or more) extended as far north as Maharashtra, but fell short of bringing needed rainfall to groundnut, soybean, and cotton areas of Gujarat and western Madhya Pradesh. Continued dryness could result in significant local declines in yield potential. In the east, heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) was concentrated over rainfed rice areas west of Calcutta and along the lower Ganges River system, maintaining abundant to excessive moisture levels for rice cultivation. Elsewhere, isolated, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) developed over northernmost crop areas of Pakistan and north-central India, boosting late-season moisture reserves, but possibly causing localized damage to maturing cotton. The retreating monsoon resulted in warm, dry weather elsewhere in the northwest, drying grains and cotton. Historically, the summer rainy season has ended by mid-October throughout Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the northern half of India.







SOUTHEAST ASIA

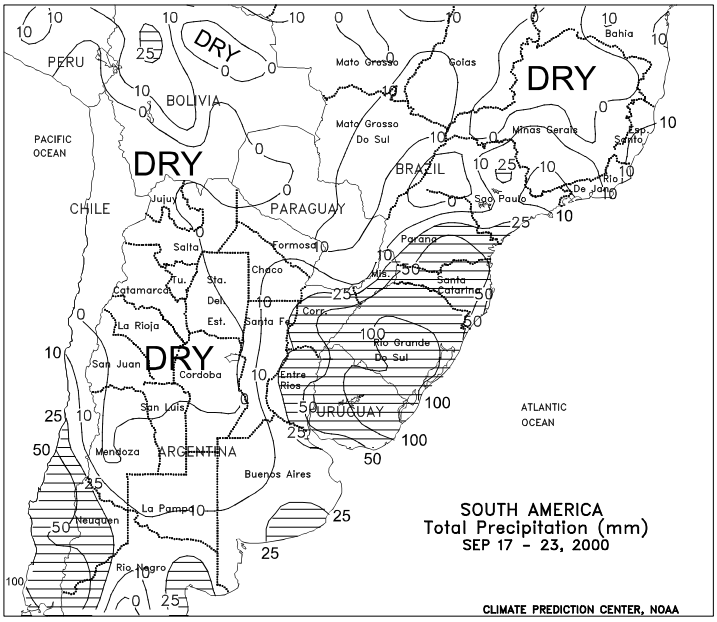
Sunny, mostly dry weather favored rice maturation and early harvesting throughout Indochina. Variable showers (25-150 mm) fell acrossthe Philippines, slowing rice maturation. Variable showers (25-150 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia. Sunny, dry weather continued across Java, Indonesia, aiding second-crop rice maturation and harvesting.

AUSTRALIA

Warm, dry weather enhanced winter crop development across the region while increasing the moisture demands of immature winter grains and oilseeds. In Queensland, conditions were favorable for dry down and harvesting. In northern sections of New South Wales, however, some stress to immature winter crops was likely, with highs reaching the low 30's degrees C on a daily basis. Dry weather along the east-central coast aided sugarcane harvesting, but moisture was needed in the interior for the germination of rainfed summer crops. Rain is also needed in the driest sections of Western Australia to help fill winter crops. In New Zealand, mostly dry, seasonably mild weather dominated primary agricultural districts.

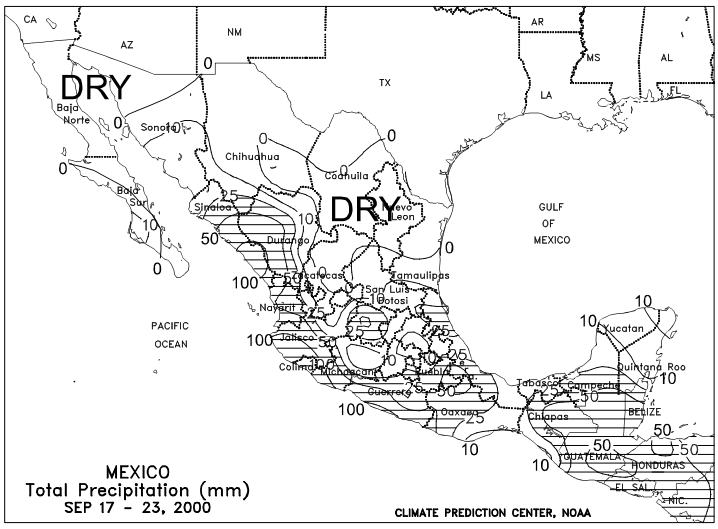
SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, light to moderate rain (10-25 mm) fell across southern Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and eastern and southern Buenos Aires, increasing topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat and early summer crop planting. In Cordoba and the northwestern crop areas of Salta, Jujuy, Tucaman, and Santiago del Estero, mostly dry weather limited topsoil moisture for wheat development. These regions have received less than 35 percent of normal rainfall during the past 4 weeks. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across central Argentina, with the lowest temperatures ranging from 0 to 2 degrees C confined to southern Buenos Aires. In southern Brazil, widespread showers (25-100 mm) covered Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and southern Parana, increasing soil moisture supplies. The heaviest amounts (150 to 200 mm) were reported in south-central Rio Grande do Sul. The rainfall, however, slowed winter wheat maturation and harvesting, possibly reducing wheat quality. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal across southern Brazil. According to reports as of September 20, Brazilian winter wheat was 11 percent harvested, compared with 34 percent on average. Harvesting was nearing completion in Minas Gerias and Mato Grosso do Sul, but has not yet started in Rio Grande do Sul. In Parana, harvesting was 13 percent complete, compared with 49 percent on average.



MEXICO

From September 20 to 22, Tropical Storm Norman flirted with the western coast of Colima, Jalisco, and Sinaloa, with sustained winds less than 40 knots (46 mph). Norman helped to produce widespread showers (50-100 or more) along the western Mexican coast and caused local flooding. Scattered showers (10-48 mm) maintained moisture supplies in the main corn belt. Dry weather prevailed across northeastern and northern Mexico. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across most of Mexico.



CANADA

Cool, showery weather hampered Prairie fieldwork. Rain and snow showers (liquid precipitation totaling 5-25 mm or more) were unfavorable for windrowed grains and oilseeds, but a killing freeze (lows from -2 to -8 degrees C) at nearly all locations lowered the risk of sprouting. The cold snap, which came later than normal in many areas, will also aid maturation of standing spring crops. Harvesting reportedly rapidly progressed prior to the rainfall, with combining exceeding 90 percent in southern agricultural districts. In eastern Canada, locally heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) continued to plague Ontario's southern corn and soybeans. Showers were somewhat lighter (15 mm or less) in Quebec and Ontario's northern growing areas. However, periods of sunny weather and above-normal temperatures aided crops that have been behind schedule in development for most of the growing season. The first autumn freeze usually occurs in late-September in the region's more northerly growing areas.